Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet ()

UN System

A family in Syria pick up their monthly World Food Programme food allowance. Almost 100 million people in around 88 countries receive assistance from WFP every year through food or cash distributions, nutrition support programmes and other activities. The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020. Photo: WFP/Ali Habib

The United Nations is part of the UN system, which, in addition to the UN itself, comprises many funds, programmes and specialized agencies, each of which have their own area of work, leadership and budget. The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions. The Specialized Agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions. The UN coordinates its work with these separate UN system entities, which cooperate with the Organization to help it achieve its goals.

UN System chart (https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_system_chart.pdf)

Funds and Programmes

UNDP

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Development Programme (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html) (UNDP) works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNEP

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

The United Nations Environment Programme (http://www.unep.org/) (UNEP) established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

UNFPA

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Population Fund (http://www.unfpa.org/) (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UN-HABITAT

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (http://unhabitat.org/) (UN-HABITAT) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

UNICEF

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (http://www.unicef.org/) works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

WFP

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

The World Food Programme (http://www.wfp.org/) aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The world's largest humanitarian agency, WFP helps almost 100 million people in approximately 88 countries with assistance every year through food or cash distributions and more. The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

UN Specialized Agencies

The UN specialized agencies are autonomous international organizations working with the United Nations. All were brought into relationship with the UN through negotiated agreements. Some existed before the First World War. Some were associated with the League of Nations. Others were created almost simultaneously with the UN or later.

FAO

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

The Food and Agriculture Organization (http://www.fao.org/) leads international efforts to fight hunger. It is both a forum for negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development.

ICAO

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

The International Civil Aviation Organization (https://www.icao.int/) develops standards for global air transport and assists its 192 Member States in sharing the world's skies to their socio-economic benefit.

IFAD

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (http://www.ifad.org/), since it was created in 1977, has focused exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition; raise their productivity and incomes; and improve the quality of their lives.

ILO

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The International Labor Organization (http://www.ilo.org/) promotes international labor rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labor, and equality of opportunity and treatment.

IMF

Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA

The International Monetary Fund (http://www.imf.org/) fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance. The IMF currently has $28 billion in outstanding loans to 74 nations.

IMO

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

The International Maritime Organization (http://www.imo.org/) has created a comprehensive shipping regulatory framework, addressing safety and environmental concerns, legal matters, technical cooperation, security, and efficiency.

ITU

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The International Telecommunication Union (http://www.itu.int/) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. It is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate

UNESCO

Headquarters: Paris, France

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (http://en.unesco.org/) focuses on everything from teacher training to helping improve education worldwide to protecting important historical and cultural sites around the world.

UNIDO

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (http://www.unido.org/) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

UN TOURISM

Headquarters: Madrid, Spain

The World Tourism Organization (https://www.unwto.org/) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

UPU

Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland

The Universal Postal Union (http://www.upu.int/) is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

WHO

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization (http://www.who.int/) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health, as defined in the WHO Constitution, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

WIPO

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The World Intellectual Property Organization (http://www.wipo.int/) protects intellectual property throughout the world through 23 international treaties.

WMO

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The World Meteorological Organization (https://public.wmo.int/en) facilitates the free international exchange of meteorological data and information and the furtherance of its use in aviation, shipping, security, and agriculture, among other things.

WORLD BANK

Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA

The World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org/) focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications, among other things. The World Bank works in over 100 countries.

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/ibrd) (IBRD)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (https://icsid.worldbank.org/) (ICSID)*
- International Development Association (http://www.worldbank.org/ida) (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (http://www.ifc.org/) (IFC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (http://www.miga.org/) (MIGA)*

* International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.

Other Entities and Bodies

UNAIDS

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (http://www.unaids.org/en) (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/).

UNHCR

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (https://www.unhcr.org/) – UNHCR protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement.

UNIDIR

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (http://www.unidir.org/) is a voluntarily funded autonomous institute within the United Nations. An impartial actor, the Institute generates ideas and promotes action on disarmament and security. UNIDIR brings together states, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to work together—internationally, regionally and locally—to build and implement creative solutions that will benefit all states and peoples.

UNITAR

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

An autonomous UN body established in 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (http://www.unitar.org/) is a training arm of the United Nations System, and has the mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through diplomatic training, and to increase the impact of national actions through public awareness-raising, education and training of public policy officials.

UNOPS

Headquarters: Copenhagen, Denmark

The mission of the United Nations Office for Project Services (https://www.unops.org/english/Pages/Home.aspx) is to help people build better lives and help countries achieve peace and sustainable development. UNOPS helps the UN, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way.

UNRWA

Headquarters: Amman, Jordan

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (http://www.unrwa.org/) has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees (https://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are). It's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict. It reports only to the UN General Assembly.

UNSSC

Headquarters: Turin, Italy

The United Nations System Staff College (https://www.unssc.org/) is the learning organization of the United Nations system. It designs and delivers learning programmes for staff of the UN system and its partners. It helps the United Nations become more effective by fostering a common leadership and management culture across the system.

UNU

Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan

The United Nations University (https://unu.edu/) was established by the UN General Assembly with the mandate to conduct "research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare." Today, the University comprises 14 research and training institutes in 12 countries. As the think tank of the UN system, UNU provides policymakers with high-quality, evidence-based research and pragmatic advice.

UN WOMEN

Headquarters: New York City, USA

UN Women (http://www.unwomen.org/en) merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focus exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Related Organizations

CTBTO

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (http://www.ctbto.org/) promotes the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (which is not yet in force) and the build-up of the verification regime so that it is operational when the Treaty enters into force.

IAEA

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

The International Atomic Energy Agency (https://www.iaea.org/), is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

ICC

Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands

The International Criminal Court (https://www.icc-cpi.int/) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national courts.

IOM

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The International Organization for Migration (http://www.iom.int/) works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

OPCW

Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (http://www.opcw.org/) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997. OPCW Member States work together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.

UNFCCC

Headquarters: Bonn, Germany

The UNFCCC Secretariat (https://unfccc.int/) (UN Climate Change) was established in 1992 when countries adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With the subsequent adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, Parties to these three agreements have progressively reaffirmed the Secretariat's role as the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change.

WTO

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The World Trade Organization (https://www.wto.org/) is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements, and a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.

ITC

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

The International Trade Centre (https://www.intracen.org/) (ITC) is the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Established in 1964, the ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

(https://www.addtoany.com/share#url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2F
us%2Fun-system&title=UN%20System%20%7C%20United%20Nations)
(/#facebook)

(/#x) (/#email)

(/#whatsapp)

MAIN BODIES

- General Assembly (http://www.un.org/en/ga/)
- Security Council (https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/)
- Economic and Social Council (http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/)
- Trusteeship Council (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/trusteeship-council)
- International Court of Justice (http://www.icj-cij.org/en)
- Secretariat (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/secretariat)

DEPARTMENTS / OFFICES

- New York (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/secretariat)
- Geneva (http://www.unog.ch/)
- Nairobi (http://www.unon.org/)
- Vienna (http://www.unvienna.org/)
- UN System Directory (http://www.unsceb.org/directory/)
- UN System Chart (https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_system_chart.pdf)
- Global Leadership (https://www.un.org/sg/en/global-leadership/home)

- UN Information Centres (https://www.un.org/en/department-of-global-communications/worldwide/united-nations-information-centres)

RESOURCES / SERVICES

- Emergency information (http://emergency.un.org/)
- Reporting Wrongdoing (https://oios.un.org/report-wrongdoing)
- UN Journal (https://journal.un.org/)
- Documents (https://www.un.org/en/our-work/documents)
- Guidelines for gender-inclusive language (http://www.un.org/en/gender-inclusive-language/)
- Databases (https://www.un.org/en/library/page/databases)
- Library (https://www.un.org/library)
- UN iLibrary (http://www.un-ilibrary.org/)
- UN Chronicle (https://www.un.org/en/chronicle)
- UN Yearbook (https://www.un.org/en/yearbook)
- Bookshop (https://shop.un.org/)
- Publications for sale (https://shop.un.org/)
- Maps (https://www.un.org/geospatial/)
- Media Accreditation (http://www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/)
- NGO accreditation at ECOSOC (https://ecosoc.un.org/en/ngo/consultative-status)
- NGO accreditation at DGC (https://www.un.org/en/civil-society/page/application)
- Visitors' services (http://visit.un.org/)
- Exhibits (https://www.un.org/exhibits)
- Procurement (http://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/welcome-united-nations-procurement-division-unpd)
- Employment (https://careers.un.org/lbw/Home.aspx)
- Internships (https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=IP)
- Model UN (https://www.un.org/en/mun)
- Academic Impact (/en/academicimpact)
- UN Archives (https://archives.un.org/)
- UN Audiovisual Library (https://media.un.org/avlibrary/en)
- How to donate to the UN System (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/how-to-donate-to-the-un-system)
- Information on COVID-19 (Coronavirus) (https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus)
- Africa Renewal (https://www.un.org/africarenewal/)
- Ten ways the UN makes a difference (https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_card_2025_e.pdf)
- GA High-level Week 2025 (https://www.un.org/en/high-level-week-2025)

KEY DOCUMENTS

- UN Charter (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (http://www.unicef.org/crc/)
- Statute of the International Court of Justice (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/statute-of-the-international-court-of-justice)
- Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization (https://www.un.org/en/annualreport)

NEWS AND MEDIA

- News (https://news.un.org/en/)
- Press Releases (http://www.un.org/press/en/)
- Briefings (http://www.un.org/press/en/content/noon-briefings)
- Spokesperson (http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/)
- Photos (https://dam.media.un.org/)
- UNIfeed (https://media.un.org/unifeed/en)
- UN Web TV (https://webtv.un.org/en)
- UN Video (https://www.un.org/en/video)
- Social Media (https://www.un.org/en/get-involved/social-media)
- The Essential UN (http://www.un.org/en/essential-un/)
- Awake at Night podcast (https://www.un.org/en/awake-at-night)

ISSUES / CAMPAIGNS

- Global Issues (https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/)
- Observances (https://www.un.org/en/observances)
- Sustainable Development Goals (http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)
- Our Common Agenda (https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda)
- The Summit of the Future (https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future)
- Pact for the Future (https://www.un.org/pact-for-the-future/en)
- Climate Action (http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/)
- Peace and Security (https://www.un.org/en/peaceandsecurity)
- Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) (https://www.un.org/en/A4P/)
- Global Crisis Response Group (https://news.un.org/pages/global-crisis-response-group/)
- Call to Action for Human Rights (https://www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml)
- Disability Inclusion Strategy (https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/)
- Fight Racism (https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism)
- Hate Speech (https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech)

- LGBTIQ+ People (https://www.un.org/lgbtiq-people)
- Safety of Journalists (https://www.un.org/en/safety-journalists)
- Rule of Law (https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/)
- Action to Counter Terrorism (http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/)
- Victims of Terrorism (http://www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/en)
- Children and Armed Conflict (https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/)
- Violence Against Children (SRSG) (https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/)
- Sexual Violence in Conflict (https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/)
- Refugees and Migrants (http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/)
- Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (https://www.un.org/en/content/action-agenda-on-internal-displacement/)
- Spotlight Initiative (http://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative/index.shtml)
- Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/)
- Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (http://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/)
- 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/)
- The Holocaust (http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/)
- The Question of Palestine (https://www.un.org/unispal/)
- The Transatlantic Slave Trade (https://www.un.org/en/rememberslavery)
- Decolonization (https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en)
- Messengers of Peace (https://www.un.org/en/mop)
- Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/)
- Digital Financing Task Force (https://www.un.org/en/digital-financing-taskforce)
- Data Strategy (https://www.un.org/datastrategy)
- Information Integrity (https://www.un.org/en/information-integrity)
- Countering Disinformation (https://www.un.org/en/countering-disinformation)
- UN80 Initiative (https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/en)

List of specialized agencies of the United Nations

United Nations specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the United Nations (UN) and each other through the structure of the United Nations Economic and Social Council at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the intersecretariat level.[1][2][3]

The United Nations Office at Geneva in Switzerland is the second biggest UN centre after the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

One of the principal objectives of the UN is to solve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues through international cooperation. Several specialized agencies have been set up to achieve these goals, agencies which may or may not have been created by the UN, but were incorporated into the United Nations System by the United Nations Economic and Social Council acting under Articles 57 and 63 of the United Nations Charter. At present, the UN has in total 15[4][5][note 1] specialized agencies that carry out various functions on behalf of the UN. The specialized agencies are listed below.[9][10]

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO logo

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. FAO is the largest of the U.N. agencies. It was established in 1945, succeeding the International Institute of Agriculture, and its headquarters is in Rome.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ICAO flag

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was founded in 1947. It codifies the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth. Its headquarters are located in Montreal, Canada.

The ICAO Council adopts standards and recommended practices concerning air navigation, prevention of unlawful interference, and facilitation of border-crossing procedures for international civil aviation. In addition, ICAO defines the protocols for air accident investigation followed by transport safety authorities in countries signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was established as an international financial institution in 1977, as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference and a response to the situation in the Sahel. It is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. Its headquarters are in Rome, Italy.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO flag

The International Labour Organization (ILO) deals with labour issues. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. Founded in 1919, it was formed through the negotiations of the Treaty of Versailles and was initially an agency of the League of Nations. It became a member of the UN system after the demise of the League and the formation of the UN at the end of World War II. Its Constitution (http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:62:0::NO:62:P62_LIST_ENTRIE_ID:2453907:NO) , as amended to date, includes the Declaration of Philadelphia on the aims and purposes of the Organization. Its secretariat is known as the International Labour Office.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO flag

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), formerly known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), was established in 1948 by the United Nations to coordinate international maritime safety and related practices. However, the IMO did not enter into full force until 1958.

Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, IMO promotes cooperation between government and the shipping industry to improve maritime safety and prevent marine pollution. IMO is governed by an Assembly of members and is financially administered by a council of members elected from the assembly. The work of IMO is conducted through five committees, and these are supported by technical sub-committees. Member organizations of the U.N. organizational family may observe the proceedings of the IMO. Observer status may be granted to qualified non-governmental organizations.

The IMO is supported by a permanent secretariat of employees who are representative of its members. The secretariat is composed of a Secretary-General who is periodically elected by the Assembly, and various divisions including, *inter alia*, marine safety, environmental protection, and a conference section. It also promotes international cooperation in education, science and culture.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Seal of the International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is part of the United Nations system and has a formal relationship agreement with the U.N., but retains its independence.[11] The IMF provides monetary cooperation and financial stability and acts as a forum for advice, negotiation and assistance on financial issues. It is headquartered in Washington D.C.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was established to standardize and regulate international radio and telecommunications. It was founded as the International Telegraph Union in Paris on 17 May 1865. Its main tasks include standardization, allocation of the radio spectrum, and organizing interconnection arrangements between different countries to allow international phone calls—in which regard it performs for telecommunications a similar function to what the Universal Postal Union (UPU) performs for postal services. It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, next to the U.N.'s Geneva campus.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO flag

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1945 with its headquarters in Paris, France. Its stated purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture to propagate further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the U.N. Charter.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations, which promotes inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The organization addresses some of the most pressing issues of our time and works to accelerate economic growth to bring prosperity to all while at the same time safeguarding the environment. UNIDO's mandate is fully aligned with the global development agenda, which underlines the central role of industrialization and its importance as a key enabler for all 17 Global Goals, and especially for SDG9. The Director General is Gerd Müller.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

UPU flag

The Universal Postal Union (UPU), headquartered in Bern, Switzerland, coordinates postal policies between member nations, and hence the worldwide postal system. Each member country agrees to the same set of terms for conducting international postal duties.

World Bank Group (WBG)

The World Bank Group is part of the United Nations System and has a formal relationship agreement with the U.N., but retains its independence.[11] The WBG comprises a group of five legally separate but affiliated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Development Association (IDA), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). It is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Its mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. WBG's headquarters are in Washington, D.C.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development makes loans to developing countries for development programmes with the stated goal of reducing poverty. It is part of the World Bank Group (WBG).

International Development Association (IDA)

The International Development Association's mandate is close to that of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with a focus on the poorest countries. It is part of the World Bank Group (WBG).

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

The International Finance Corporation is the largest multilateral source of loan and equity financing for private sector projects in the developing world. It is part of the World Bank Group (WBG).

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO flag

The World Health Organization (WHO) acts as a coordinating authority on international public health and deals with health, sanitation, and diseases and sends medical teams to help combat epidemics. Established on 7 April 1948, when 26 members of the United Nations ratified its Constitution, the agency inherited the mandate and resources of its predecessor, the Health Organization, which had been an agency of the League of Nations. 7 April is now celebrated as World Health Day every year. The WHO is governed by 194 Member States through the World Health Assembly. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1967 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Its purpose is to encourage creative activity and to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world. The organization administers several treaties concerning the protection of intellectual property rights.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO flag

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for modern meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

UN Tourism

The UN Tourism (formerly United Nations World Tourism Organization, UNWTO) was established in 1974 in Madrid, Spain, to replace the International Union of Official Tourist Publicity Organizations (IUOTPO). UNWTO has 160 member states and 350 affiliated members representing private organizations, educational institutions, and others. It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain. The World Tourism Organization serves as a forum for tourism policies and acts as a practical source for tourism know-how. In 2023, UNWTO decide to rename this organization to UN Tourism.[12]

Former specialized agencies

The only U.N. specialized agency to go out of existence is the International Refugee Organization (IRO), which existed from 1946 to 1952. In 1952, it was replaced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).[13]

Related organizations

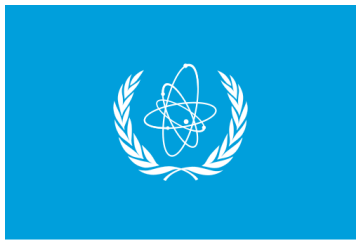
There are other intergovernmental organizations that have concluded cooperation agreements with the United Nations. In terms of cooperation structures, some agreements come very close to the relationship agreements concluded under articles 57 and 63 of the U.N. Charter with the specialized agencies, but due to Charter requirements that the agencies deal with "economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related fields", organizations with such agreements are not formally specialized agencies of the United Nations.[14][15][16][17][18][19] These organizations are termed Related Organizations by the UN.[20]

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) established such an agreement with the UN in 1957. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) also used this model for agreements of their own with the UN.[18][19][21]

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Preparatory Commission

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission is tasked with preparing the activities of the nuclear non-proliferation organization.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



IAEA flag

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an intergovernmental organization for scientific and technical cooperation in the field of nuclear technology. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. It seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit its use for military purposes. The IAEA was set up as an autonomous organization on 29 July 1957. Before this, in 1953, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower envisioned the creation of this international body to control and develop the use of atomic energy, in his "*Atoms for Peace*" speech before the U.N. General Assembly.[22] The organization and its former Director-General, Mohamed ElBaradei, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize announced on 7 October 2005. As of March 2015, the IAEA's membership is 164 countries.[23]

Due to historical reasons and the political nature of its work, the IAEA is not a specialized agency. Instead, its relationship with the United Nations is governed by a special agreement as well as by its statute that commits the IAEA to report annually to the General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council.[24]

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Since September 2016, the International Organization for Migration has been a related organization to the United Nations with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.[25] The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organization, located in The Hague, Netherlands. The organization promotes and verifies the adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction. The verification consists of both evaluations of declarations by member states and on-site inspections.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization was established instead of the failed proposal for a specialized agency dealing with trade issues, the International Trade Organization. WTO headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Summary

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
–		United Nations	UN	United States	New York City	1945	1920	• the UN members	• observer states: Holy See, Palestine • observer entities: Order of Malta • observer regional organizations:[26] European Union • other observer entities and organizations[27]	UN (https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states)
Specialized agencies										
1		Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	Italy	Rome	1945	–	• the UN members except Liechtenstein • Cook Islands, Niue	• associate members: Faroe Islands, Tokelau • member organization: European Union	FAO (http://www.fao.org/legal-services/membership-of-fao/en/)
2		International Civil Aviation Organization	ICAO	Canada	Montreal	1947	–	• the UN members except Liechtenstein • Cook Islands	–	ICAO (https://www.icao.int/about-icao/Pages/member-states.aspx)
3	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	IFAD	Italy	Rome	1977	–	• the UN members except Andorra, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkmenistan • Cook Islands, Niue	• observers: Holy See	IFAD (https://web.archive.org/web/20130803225339/http://www.ifad.org/governance/ifad/ms.htm)
4		International Labour Organization	ILO	Switzerland	Geneva	1919	–	• the UN members except Andorra, Bhutan, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Monaco, Nauru, North Korea	observer states: Palestine	ILO (https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/member-states/lang--en/index.htm)

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
								• Cook Islands		
5		International Maritime Organization	IMO	United Kingdom	London	1959	—	• the UN members except Afghanistan, Andorra, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Laos, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mali, Micronesia, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan • Cook Islands	• associate members: Faroe Islands, Hong Kong, Macao	IMO (https://www.imo.org/en/About/Membership/Pages/MemberStates.aspx)
6		International Monetary Fund	IMF	United States	Washington, D.C.	1945	—	• the UN members except Cuba, Monaco, and North Korea; • Kosovo	—	IMF (https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/members.aspx)
7		International Telecommunication Union	ITU	Switzerland	Geneva	1865	—	• the UN members • Vatican City	• observers: Palestine	ITU (http://www.itu.int/cgi-bin/htsh/mm/scripts/mm.list?_search=ITUstates&_languageid=1)
8		United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	France	Paris	1946	1922	• the UN members except Israel, Liechtenstein • Cook Islands, Niue, Palestine	• associate members: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Faroe Islands, Macau, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Sint Maarten, Tokelau • observers: Holy See • NOC only: Liechtenstein, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands	UNESCO (https://web.archive.org/web/20110813032749/http://erc.unesco.org/portal/UNESCOMemberStates.asp?language=en)

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
9		United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UNIDO	Austria	Vienna	1985	1966	• the UN members except Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Nauru, New Zealand, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States • Palestine[28]	• observers: Holy See, Order of Malta	UNIDO (https://www.unido.org/member_states)
10		Universal Postal Union	UPU	Switzerland	Bern	1874	—	• the UN members except Andorra, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau • Vatican City • Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten (as single member) • British Overseas Territories (as single member)	• observers: Palestine	UPU (https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/About-UPU/Member-Countries)
11		World Bank Group	WBG	United States	Washington, D.C.	1945	—	• the UN members except Andorra, Cuba, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Korea • Kosovo	—	WBG (https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership/members)
12		World Health Organization	WHO	Switzerland	Geneva	1948	1907	• the UN members except Liechtenstein • Cook Islands, Niue	• associate members: Puerto Rico, Tokelau • observers: Chinese Taipei (2009–2016), Holy See,	WHO (https://www.who.int/countries/)

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
									Palestine, Order of Malta	
13	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	WIPO	Switzerland	Geneva	1967	–	• the UN members except Micronesia, Palau, South Sudan • Cook Islands, Holy See, Niue	• observers: Palestine, several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	WIPO (http://www.wipo.int/members/en/)
14		World Meteorological Organization	WMO	Switzerland	Geneva	1950	1873	• the UN members except Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and San Marino • Cook Islands, Niue	• member territories: British Caribbean Territories, Curaçao and Sint Maartin, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia	WMO (https://web.archive.org/web/20111010091557/http://www.wmo.int/pages/members/membership/index_en.html)
15	UN Tourism	UN Tourism		Spain	Madrid	1974	1925	• the UN members except Australia, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore,	• associate members: Aruba, Flemish Community, Hong Kong, Macau, Madeira, Puerto Rico • observers: Holy See, Palestine	UNWTO (https://web.archive.org/web/20070715221037/http://www.unwto.org/states/index.php)

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
								Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States		
Related organizations										
16	CTBTO	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	CTBTO Prep Com	Austria	Vienna	1996	—	• the UN members except Bhutan, India, Mauritius, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Syria, Tonga, Yemen • Cook Islands, Holy See, Niue	—	CTBTO (http://www.ctbto.org/the-treaty/status-of-signature-and-ratification/)
17	IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	IAEA	Austria	Vienna	1957	—	• the UN members except Andorra, Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Maldives, Micronesia, Nauru, North Korea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu • Holy See	• observer: Palestine	IAEA (https://www.iaea.org/about/governance/list-of-member-states)
18		Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	OPCW	Netherlands	The Hague	1997	—	• the UN members except Egypt, Israel, North Korea and South Sudan • Cook Islands, Holy See, Niue, Palestine	—	OPCW (http://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/member-states/)
19	WTO	World Trade Organization	WTO	Switzerland	Geneva	1995	1948	• the UN members except	• observers: Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan,	WTO (http://www.wto.in

No.	Logo	Official name	Abbreviation	Location (Country)	Location (City)	Established	Precursor established	Member states	Other participants	Map and reference
								Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Kiribati, Lebanon, Libya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Nauru, North Korea, Palau, San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan • customs territory members: European Union, Hong Kong, Macau, Chinese Taipei	Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Holy See	t/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20120105135547/http://www.wto.int/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm) 5 January 2012 at the Wayback Machine
20		International Organization for Migration	IOM	Switzerland	Geneva	1951	–	• the UN members except Andorra, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Monaco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria, United Arab Emirates • Cook Islands, Holy See	• observers: Bahrain, Bhutan, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia • over 80 global and regional IGOs and NGOs are also observers	IOM (https://www.iom.int/)

Notes

1. In some sources,[6][7] the UN indicates that there are 17 specialized agencies when counting the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the International Development Association (IDA), all part of the World Bank Group (WBG), as individual specialized agencies. The UN's Annual Statistical Report on procurement states that 41 organizations were in operation in 2021 but that some consolidation had reduced this number to 31 in 2022.[8]

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External links

- Official website (http://www.un.org/) of the United Nations